

Weekly Views

2012

Commissioner Lemmon visited Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility Indiana Veterans Education and Transition (INVET) Unit, taking time to talk with the residents as they updated him on special projects they are working on.

Thanks to the generous staff at IDOC's Central Office and our partners at Aramark, 57 activity bags were donated to Riley Hospital for Children. Each bag contained crayons, markers, activity books, Play-Doh, and craft projects. These activity bags provide a welcome distraction for the kids while waiting to see doctors and have tests, during long trips to and from the hospital, and during hospitalization. During the month of December a Christmas tree was on display in the reception area and was decorated with ornaments that listed items needed for the activity bags. Representatives from Riley sent a 'Thank You' card to Central Office for bringing comfort and cheer to the kids at Riley this holiday season.

Rupert Boneham, America's most beloved "Survivor," spoke to 60 students at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. He shared his own personal history with negative decisions and the impact on his life. He stressed the importance of developing a strong mind. Rupert stated that "it is the strongest muscle in your body." He also expressed the importance of working and not focusing on the pay for that work.

Westville Correctional Facility made visiting a little more cheerful for children during their Christmas visits. Staff assigned to the facility's Visiting Room distributed games, puzzles and toys to the young visitors with donations from the Covenant Church of West Lafayette. Members of the church delivered over 1000 items to the facility.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Kwanzaa Celebration in the facility chapel that was attended by approximately 90 offenders. Guest speaker Kamau Jywanza provided an informative presentation relative to the significance of the seven day celebration and discussed the principles, practices, and symbols associated with the holiday which is geared to the social and spiritual needs of African-Americans. Ivy Tech Corporate College Correctional Education Program Coordinator Evelyn Pierce-Hicks, who serves as the supervisor of educational programs at the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the Correctional Industrial Facility, served as the emcee of the program which was the first time such an event has ever been conducted at the facility.

Members of the Plainfield Correctional Facility's Jazz Band, led by volunteer Bob Groves, played Christmas songs for the offenders confined to the facility's infirmary. For the offenders unable to leave their rooms, including offenders undergoing dialysis, the band strolled through the infirmary for all to hear. Mr. Groves has been volunteering at the facility for over five years and bands under his direction have performed at several facility events.

Santa made a special stop to the Indiana Women's Prison Wee Ones Nursery unit this holiday season. While on the unit, Santa took pictures with all eight babies and their mothers currently living on the unit. The babies all enjoyed the visit. The staff and offenders of the Wee Ones Nursery unit would like to thank Santa (Mr. Shepherd of Ivy Tech) for taking time out of his busy schedule for the visit.



The PLUS Unit at New Castle Correctional Facility donated \$500, along with an additional \$80 raised from staff haircuts and a load of food donated by both staff and offenders to God's Grain Bin, a non-profit organization located in New Castle.

Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) held its fifth blood drive of the year, collecting 26 units for a grand total of 78 units donated in 2011. According to the American Red Cross, each unit donated has the potential of saving three lives, so up to 134 individual could be impacted because RCF staff took the time to give.

Westville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Community (TC) hosted their sixth Family Community Seminar. Eight TC offender residents and 14 guests participated in the daylong event. The topic of the seminar was The Challenges of Re-Entry. All the participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity and stated that the experience was enlightening and beneficial.

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility held a blood drive at the facility. The facility had 26 employees volunteer to donate and the Red Cross collected 16 units of Blood. This is Logansport's third blood drive for 2011, and over 60 units of blood were collected this year.